

Appl. No. 10/615,977  
Atty. Docket No. 9119R2  
Amdt. dated Feb. 28, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of Dec. 16, 2004  
Customer No. 27752

### REMARKS

#### Claim Status

Claims 1 - 20 are pending in the present application. No additional claims fee is believed to be due.

#### Double Patenting

The Office Action has provisionally rejected claims 1-16 of the application under the judicially created doctrine of nonstatutory double patenting in view of copending application no. 10/377,070 (U.S. Patent No. 6,843,134). Applicant herewith submits a terminal disclaimer to overcome the rejection. Applicant therefore asserts that claims 1-16 are in condition for allowance.

#### Claim Objections

The Office Action has objected to claim 17 as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Although the Office Action suggests that claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, Applicant asserts that the filing of the terminal disclaimer, as stated above, overcomes the rejection of the base claim. Therefore, claim 17 is in condition for allowance as originally submitted.

#### Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action has indicated that claims 18-20 are allowed.

#### Conclusion

In light of the above remarks and submissions, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the nonstatutory double patenting rejection. Early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested.

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In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of this application and allowance of Claims 1-20 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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